

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

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COME-00 AID-20 OPIC-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7077

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 9081

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPRS, BDIS, MX

SUBJ: HILTON HOTEL PROBLEM WITH MIGUEL ALEMAN

REF: STATE 226072 AND PREVIOUS

MEXICO 8190; MEXICO 8938

1. LIC. AGUILAR Y QUEVEDO (AQ) AND HIS ASSOCIATE IN HILTON CASE, LIC. DE TERESA, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR NOV 23 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS. HE GAVE LENGTHY EXPOSITION OF REASONS FOR PUBLISHING ATTACK ON MIGUEL ALEMAN (MA) IN LOCAL PRESS ON OCT 5. HE ALSO STATED THAT DETAILS OF SITUATION HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA (LE) THROUGH LIC. JUAN JOSE BREMER MARTINO, PRIVATE SECRETARY, WHO REQUESTED FULL DOCUMENTATION OF CASE. DOCUMENTS BELIEVED READ IN DETAIL BY LE. FOR TWO MONTHS NOTHING HEARD IN SPITE OF REPEATED CALLS ASKING FOR OPINION. AQ THEN DISCUSSED PLANS FOR PUBLICATION WITH THOSE SURROUNDING MA AND THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FORBIDDEN TO BE IN CONTACT WITH AQ.

2. BREMER WAS AGAIN CONTACTED WITH INFORMATION THAT AQ PLANNED TO PUBLISH DENUNCIATION OF MA WITHIN 48 HOURS. SINCE NOTHING HEARD FROM PRESIDENCY, THEY ASSUMED LE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO ATTACK. AQ QUITE CANDID IN STATING THAT PRESIDENT HAS BEEN AFRAID OF POWER OF ALEMAN AND PERHAPS
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SAW THIS WAS A WAY OF GAINING THE UPPER HAND. ACCORDING

TO AQ, LE DEEPLY RESENTS SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS OF ALEMAN, WHO UNDERMINES PRESIDENT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. AQ REPEATED UNFOUNDED RUMORS PREVALENT IN MEXICO OF ALEMAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFIC AND INDIRECT MURDER OF GENERAL MARILES IN PARIS PRISON. (FORMER EQUESTRIAN CHAMPION MARILES WAS JAILED IN FRANCE AS SUSPECT INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFIC. HIS DEATH IN PRISON WAS OFFICIALLY GIVEN AS HEART ATTACK, BUT RUMORS PERSIST THAT HE WAS ORDERED KILLED BY MA). HE SAID THAT EFFECT OF PUBLICATION WAS CONSIDERABLE AND DID GIVE PRESIDENT USEFUL TOOL TO USE AGAINST MA.

3. AQ ALSO STATED THAT HILTON WOULD BE WILLING TO SETTLE ON VERY MODERATE TERMS AND WAS MORE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISH- CULPABILITY THAN GETTING OUT FULL INVESTMENT OR DAMAGES. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT AQ PREPARE TERMS ON WHICH HILTON WOULD BE WILLING TO SETTLE, TO BE MENTIONED IN FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH TREASURY SEC'Y LOPEZ PORTILLO WITH WHOM HE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED CASE.

4. AQ CALLED ON NOV 28 TO GIVE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. COURT IN ACAPULCO HAD TAKEN DEPOSITIONS OF THREE POLICEMEN BELIEVED PRESENT AT ACAPULCO HILTON TAKEOVER. AS A RESULT OF THEIR STATEMENTS, CASE RETURNED TO STATE CAPITAL CHILPANCINGO FOR FILING, WITH STATEMENT THAT NO CRIME WAS INVOLVED (NO HAY DELITO"). WHILE THIS MIGHT APPEAR TO BE END OF CASE, AQ FELT THAT NOW COURTS IN CANADA AND US COULD TAKE ACTION SINCE THERE HAD NOT BEEN A "FAIR TRIAL" IN MEXICO, NOR HAD ANY DEPOSITIONS BEEN TAKEN FROM PRINCIPAL PARTIES INVOLVED. HAD THIS BEEN DONE AND "FAIR TRIAL" CARRIED OUT, FOREIGN COURTS WOULD NOT TAKE ACTION SINCE DECISION IN MEXICO WOULD BE CONSIDERED BINDING.

5. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON EFFECT ADVERSE DECISION IN US WOULD HAVE ON ALEMAN, AQ STATED THAT IT WOULD MEAN A DENIAL OF ENTRY TO THE US AND POSSIBLE EMBARGO ON MA HOLDINGS IN THAT COUNTRY.

6. AQ STATED THAT HILTON PROBABLY WILL PRESS CASE IN US
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AND CANADA THROUGH LAW FIRMS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.
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